

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 9717

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, BE, CG

SUBJECT: FIRST WORKING GROUP OF BELGIUM/ZAIRE COMMISSION

REF: A. BRUSSELS 8397

B. BRUSSELS 8813

1. THE ECONOMIC TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION GROUP, THE FIRST OF TWO WORKING GROUPS OF THE BELGO-ZAIRIAN COMMISSION SET UP DURING PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS SEPTEMBER VISIT TO KINSHASA, MET IN BRUSSELS OCTOBER 21-23. FOREIGN MINISTER MANDUNGU BULA NYATI LED 20-MAN ZAIRIAN DELEGATION, AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE OPENED THE FIRST SESSION. THE ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED ON KING BAUDOIN AND PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF ZAIRIAN AFFAIRS BRIEFED US OCTOBER 24 ON RESULTS OF FIRST WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND (JAENEN) GAVE US COPY OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THESE FIRST BILATERAL MEETINGS SINCE THE SEPTEMBER TINDEMANS-MOBUTU VISIT REFLECTED THE SAME POSITIVE, FRIENDLY TONE THAT CHARACTERIZED THAT VISIT. HE SAID THE WORKING GROUP REVIEWED "ALL SECTORS" OF THE ZAIRIAN ECONOMY, AND THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS INITIALLED A GENERAL AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND
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TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. ACCORDING TO JAENEN, THE AGREEMENT

IS NO MORE THAN A STATEMENT OF INTENTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS WHICH WILL BE FLESHED OUT AND MADE SPECIFIC BY SUBSEQUENT PROTOCOLS. HE SAID THERE WERE FOUR SEPARATE SUBSTANTIVE SECTORS: (1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; (2) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE; (3) PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS; AND (4) COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. HE SAID THE PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTING THE SECTION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WAS NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED DURING THIS TRIP; AND THE REMAINING THREE PROTOCOLS WILL BE NEGOTIATED IN KINSHASA BETWEEN THE BELGIAN EMBASSY AND THE ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE SAID THAT THE COMPLETED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROTOCOL CAME OUT ESSENTIALLY THE WAY THE BELGIANS HAD ANTICIPATED: CUTTING BACK ASSISTANCE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR AND AGREEING TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR (REFTEL B).

3. JAENEN SAID THE SECOND WORKING GROUP-WHICH WILL TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED BELGIAN ASSETS-WILL CONVENE IN KINSHASA IN NOVEMBER. HE REPEATED THE POINT MADE IN REFTEL A: THAT THE SPEED AND SCOPE OF BELGIAN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH ZAIRE (FIRST WORKING GROUP) WOULD DEPEND ON CLEAR FORWARD MOVEMENT IN SECOND WORKING GROUP ON NATIONALIZATION.FIRESTONE

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